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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities; The Lithic Industries (Bureau of American Ethnology, *Bulletins*, no. 60, part 1). By W. H. HOLMES. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1919. xvii, 380 p. Illustrations.)

In the preface the author states that this handbook is the second of a series of treatises which will systematically cover a number of the subjects briefly discussed in the *Handbook of American Indians* (Bureau of American Ethnology, *Bulletins*, no. 30). It "is not designed as a formal presentation of American archaeology in which the antiquities are described and discussed country by country, or region by region, in geographical sequence, but rather as a reference manual, the principal purpose of which is to assemble and present the antiquities of the continent in such a manner and order as to make them readily available to the student who shall undertake to present a comprehensive view of the evolution of culture among men."

With this purpose in mind, the first 152 pages are devoted to a discussion of the problems involved in archeological work, questions of tribal migrations, trade relations, cultural areas, the antiquity of man, and similar preliminary considerations. Here too the classification of archeological matter is discussed, and various systems are compared. In chapter 8 Dr. Holmes takes up the evidence which has been adduced to prove the existence of man in America in the preglacial epoch and concludes "that the continent was probably not reached and occupied until the final retreat of the glacial ice from middle North America." Of particular interest to Minnesota readers in this connection is his discussion of the problem of the Little Falls quartzes.

The remainder of the volume deals with two main topics, first, the occurrence and production of the raw materials, and second, the methods of fashioning the material into the finished stone product. "The second volume is to be devoted exclusively to the implements, utensils, and other minor artifacts of stone." Sketches and pictures of aboriginal quarries and workshops, numerous photographs of implements in various stages of manu-

facture, and pictures of life-size groups in the National Museum enable the reader to appreciate the difficulties of production in the Stone Age. Among the substances quarried by the aborigines was catlinite, or red pipestone, which was extensively used in making tobacco pipes and ceremonial articles. This material was obtained principally at the famous quarry near Pipestone in southwestern Minnesota, and the author devotes his twenty-fourth chapter to a discussion of the conditions and methods of working it. A number of pictures add to the interest of the section.

The book is profusely illustrated with pictures which help to give a working knowledge of the subject. It is carefully indexed, equipped with a table of contents and a list of illustrations, and supplied with a bibliography. It is, indeed, what it purports to be, a *Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities*.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK JR.

The North West Company (University of California, *Publications in History*, vol. 7). By GORDON CHARLES DAVIDSON, Ph. D., first lieutenant, Canadian Mounted Rifles. (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1918. xi, 349 p. Illustrations.)

Since the great Canadian fur-trading organization known as the Northwest Company was the virtual ruler of the most of Minnesota from the close of the American Revolution until after the War of 1812, and since the company's principal *entrepôt* for the trade west of the Great Lakes was at Grand Portage, within the present boundaries of the state, a history of that company should be of considerable interest to Minnesota readers. The character of this volume is well set forth in the following extract from a review by Wayne E. Stevens, which appeared in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December, 1919. Dr. Stevens has made special studies of several phases of the subject of the book and is in a position to speak with authority about it.

So few books of real worth have been written concerning the fur trade of North America that the appearance of a new volume in this field may be regarded as an event, particularly when it deals with so important and little-known a phase of the subject as the history of the North West company. Mr. Davidson's volume is the most pretentious study of the sort which has appeared since the publication of Chittenden's *American fur trade of the far west*. An examination of the bibliography